

Testimony to the Appropriations Committee
In support of Funding for After School Grants in HB 2027
February 21, 2017
Submitted by Tyler Longolucco

Dear Senator Osten, Senator Formica, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee:

I am a student at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut, and I am writing this testimony as a Fairfield citizen who is deeply concerned about the proposed cuts to after school funding.

I have witnessed the benefits of after school programs firsthand. My freshman year I volunteered at the Discovery Magnet After School Lighthouse Program. Not only did I notice that the program was extremely well-handled, but there were many children that were involved and were actively participating in the activities that were offered. Out of the different activities offered, children got hands-on exposure to computer and music programs, as well as physical fitness exercises that kept all participants involved. They also received encouragement and guidance from their teachers and other mentors in the process. This encouragement and guidance is exactly what they need. Many children in this area do not have this type of consistency in their lives, so this positive reinforcement is exactly the type of encouragement that they need to thrive. As a volunteer and a young adult, the children looked to me for advice and feedback in many situations. This after school program, like many others, allows for mentor opportunities which gives children positive role models aside from their teachers. I have not been directly involved in any of the other eight after school programs, but I imagine they all have a similar effect on the children involved. I hope you take my testimony into consideration as you move forward. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tyler Longolucco